May 23, 2022

### **REVIEW OF NOMINATING PETITION**

# PERRY JOHNSON Republican Candidate for Governor

## **NUMBER OF VALID SIGNATURES REQUIRED:** 15,000 signatures.

**TOTAL FILING:** 23,193 signatures.

**RESULT OF REVIEW:** 13,800 facially valid signatures, 9,393 invalid signatures.

Not registered  Jurisdiction errors (no city in county known by name given by signer, dual jurisdiction entry, jurisdiction name given by signer does not align with address)  Date errors (no date given by signer, date of birth entered, Less: 269 or date given by signer is later than circulator's date of signing)  Address errors (no street address or rural route given)  Less: 81  Circulator errors (circulator did not sign or date petition, Less: 239 etc.)  Signature errors (no signature or incomplete signature)  Less: 15
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etc.) Signature errors (no signature or incomplete signature)  Less: 15
Signature errors (no signature or incomplete signature)  Less: 15
Miscellaneous errors (signatures of dubious authenticity Less: 402
where the petition signature does not match the signature
on file or multiple signatures appear to have been written
by the same individual, etc.)
Number of signatures on sheets submitted by fraudulent- Less: 6,983
petition circulators
TOTAL 13,800

Staff reviewed each petition sheet submitted by Mr. Johnson. During that review, staff flagged each sheet which was signed by a fraudulent-petition circulator. For additional information on sheets submitted by fraudulent-petition circulators, see *Staff Report on Fraudulent Nominating Petitions*.

In total, staff's review of Mr. Johnson's petition sheets identified 9,393 invalid signatures and 13,800 facially valid signatures, which dropped him below the 15,000 threshold and rendered him ineligible for the ballot.

Signatures from the following fraudulent-petition circulators were included in Mr. Johnson's submission:

Davon Best	60 signatures
Antonio Braxton	177 signatures
Brianna Briggs	254 signatures
Nicholas Carlton	404 signatures
DeShawn Evans	401 signatures
Jehvon Evans	70 signatures
Justin Garland	203 signatures
LeVaughn Hearn	108 signatures
Brianna Heron	450 signatures
Aaliyah Ingram	154 signatures
Niccolo Mastromatteo	97 signatures
Giovannee Smith	460 signatures
Ryan Snowden	1,077 signatures
Trevon Stewart	29 signatures
Stephen Tinnin	1,034 signatures
Yazmine Vasser	576 signatures
Diallo Vaughn	440 signatures
William Williams	989 signatures
	6,983 signatures

Distinctive characteristics of petition sheets submitted by fraudulent-petition circulators included all of the following:

# 1. Signatures from voters who have been canceled or have not lived at the address on the petition for years.

Through its review, staff identified a number of fraudulent signatures that were purported to be from voters who had been canceled. Voters were canceled for a variety of reasons which included moving out of state and death. Several signatures also listed an address where the voter has not resided from at least one to eight years prior to signing.

Johnson petition sheet 602, line 6: moved from this address in 2021.

Johnson petition sheet 2068, line 2: canceled.

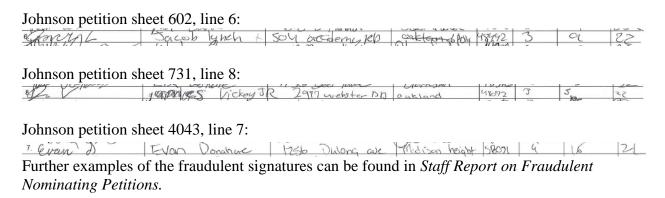
### 2. Misspelled names or addresses.

In some cases, the voter's name is misspelled, either in the signature block or in the block for the voter's printed name. Misspelling of the purported individual's own name is an indicator of fraud. Although signatures do not need to be legible to be accepted, a large number of signatures in which the proffered signature appears to have a different spelling than the printed name is an indicator of fraud.

Johnson petition si "Lian" or "Liar."	heet 73	6, line 8: vot	er's name is Lia an	d the signatur	re indicates w	hat appe	ars
8. Nav Farm	L101	Ham	Rog philips our	beckley	48072 B	5	22
	100		1 1	1	107:		
indicate "Zigh."			eter's surname is Z		-	orinted na	ıme
10. Kennedy Zigh	Kennedy	Zigh	2008 dover dr	Wixom	48393 63	ØB	22
Johnson petition si	heet 72	3, line 5: vot	er's name is Jody a	and signature	and printed n	ame indi	cate
5 John Ryby	John	Rudy	2200 Berkley	Oakland	48672 3	To the second	22
Johnson petition si "McDough."	heet 61	1, line 1: vot	er's surname is Mo	Donough and	d printed nam	e indicat	es
	+ xekol	o mchersh	2355 homestores	- helly	4844 3	٤	202
"Beecher."	1 7997 1 1 1	the Market To	er's surname is Bro	-			1
4. alyn By	Josem	Beecher	5072 Whispennasto	E Ochland lo	N 97942 03	08	2022
Johnson petition si indicate "Sean."	heet 404	43, line 1: vo	oter's name is Sean	a and signatu	re and printed	d name	
1. Dean, Struje	Sean	Strye	1760 Shurwood	Sto Sustuan Lave	48526 9	16	22
indicate "Bornstie	n."	Bornsteen	nter's name is Born	4 Handkrafton Woods	40070 4	,16	n
name as "Vicki" b	ut print	s it as "Viki.	"				
3. Vicki Pyle	Uiki	Pyle	4040 EAtherten	Section	41519 4	16	22_
was mischaracteria	zed. For	r example, B 5, line 8: vot	jurisdiction or stre loomfield Hills wa er lives on Crossbr	s often writte	n as Bloomfi	eld.	
8. Kony Hear	hogh	Eglison (	5398 Crossbert	holy 7	3477 37 9	1 (2)	
			17: the city of Clar h by the same hand		ed "Clarkster	1."	
-			oter lives on Callen			16	17
Johnson petition sindicates Bloomfie	eld.	1, lines 4 and	18: voters live in B	Bloomfield Hi	lls and petition	on sheet	01
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	- Jan	- July III	- CUCION MINE	THOMPSON THE	1.0		00

3. Repeated use of an uncommon signature abbreviation.

An additional anomaly is the use of a first name and last initial as a signature. Using a first initial and last name (for example, J. Smith) is not uncommon; the inverse (John S.) is rare. Nonetheless, this unusual combination was included throughout the fraudulent petition sheets, including the below examples:



ADDITIONAL INVALID SIGNATURES IDENTIFIED DURING FACE REVIEW: As with all candidates, the staff initially conducted a face review of Mr. Johnson's petition sheets. Substantial numbers of signatures were deemed invalid on face review based on the errors described above, with one of the largest numbers coming from jurisdictional errors. The three jurisdictional error codes are OC, NC, and DUAL, which correspond with the provisions in the Michigan Election Law<sup>1</sup> and are described in the manual produced by the Bureau on *Circulating and Canvassing Countywide Petition Forms: Nominating and Qualifying Petitions.*<sup>2</sup> This manual is provided to election officials and candidates for office.

OC describes an instance in which the address given is outside the city or township identified by the signer. For instance, commonly signers would write "Oakland" or "Wayne" as their city or township when they actually lived in Oakland or Wayne counties. Because there is a township of Oakland and city of Wayne, staff verified that signers committed the errors described. This error invalidated 521 signatures.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> MCL 168.544c and 168.544d.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://www.michigan.gov/-/media/Project/Websites/sos/16delrio/SOS\_ED105\_County\_Pet\_Form.pdf?rev=daee67c93fb24f5e95c14a39d625ff9 5

		NATING PETITIO	ON B	candidate, Ex-	ception: the fo	rm may not be u ommissioner; s	nay be used by any p used by a partisan ca uch candidates mus	ndidate who
	We, the undensigned, registered and qualified voters of the County of County	Party for the office of N  20	IAN THERE ARE		Expiration Dat	° 36	98 TO THE OFFIC	
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1	2 Verran Burton Vivian Buxton 3 mg	1820 Rochester	Oakland	<del>\</del>	48071	03	25	2022
	5. Sheemand SUE MAY	31174 Dorchester AVE	ONKL	1	48071	3	25	2022
	6. Jaluthyky PATRICK MEGO	2111 BENLY	OAKL	ANID 5	4807	3	35	2058
1	9. Prophysical Distriction of the Marians	HOVE GARAGE	Oakland Oakla	1/1	48671	3	25	257
	CERTIFICATE OF CIRCULATOR  The softenigated inclusion of the above proteins easen the last he or also is 18 years of ago or older and of the patition more than once and has no involvedge of a person singly the patition more has once, are knowledge and before, each eighthesis in the general eighnation of the person purporting to eight and knowledge and before consideration and the proteins of the person purporting to eight and knowledge and before consideration and the proteins of the person purporting to eighthesis  some consideration and the proteins of the person purporting to eighthesis  some calletter to say the pulption.	permitted a person to sign d that, to his or her best fron, the person signing the signature, and the elector	CÈRTIFICATE					Z
	we called to sign the public.  If the discutation is not a modeline of discisign, the circulates shall make a room (N or check roads (1) in the box previoled, otherwise such signature on this postion shared is resulted and the eigniture will not be counted by a filling official. By medicy a cross or chock much in the box provided, the undersigned conducts assess that he to what in the to box provided, the undersigned conducts assess that he or the in rate a resider of the disciplina and agrees to accept the jurisdiction of this state for the purposes of any legal processing or heaving that conserns a position inheat executation of agrees to accept the jurisdiction of the state for the purposes of any legal processing or he bestreety that conserns a position inheat executation of agrees to accept the jurisdiction of the state for the purposes of any legal processing or he bestreety that conserns a position inheat executation of agrees to accept the jurisdiction of the Secretary of discovering of the Secretary of							4

NC describes an instance where there is no city or township by the name listed located within the county listed in the heading of the petition sheet. For instance, the petition sheet heading would identify all signers as Macomb County residents but individual signers would list their city or township as Monroe (which is in Monroe County), Ann Arbor (which is in Washtenaw County) or Troy (which is in Oakland County). This error invalidated 711 signatures.

INST	RUCTIONS ON REVERSE	UCTIONS ON REVERSE SIDE   candidate. Exception: the form					Petition form may be used by any partisan m may not be used by a partisan candidate who premissioner; such candidates must use the tition form.		
ve, the u	indersigned, registered and qualified votes	s of the County of MADMB	and State of Michigan, nominate	Perry Johnson		297 Can	erbury Rd	anget i tek	
	nfield Township as a cand	idate of the Republican	Party for the office of	(Name of Candidate)	nor		(Street Address o	r Rural Route)	
	(City or Township) ad for at the Primary Election to be held or		20		(Title of Office/Terr	n Expiration Dat	3349	(Distri	ct, if any)
VARN	NING - A PERSON WHO K	NOWINGLY SIGNS MORE PETITI I ONCE, OR SIGNS A NAME OTH	IONS FOR THE SAME OF	TICE THAN THERE A	ARE PERSON	NS TO BE I	ELECTED TO	O THE OFFICE	CE, N LAW.
		PRINTED NAME	STREET ADDRESS OR BURA		Y OR TOWNSHIP	ZIP CODE	DATE OF SIGNING		
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nowledg	e and belief, each signature is the genuin	e signature of the person purporting to sign the petiti or of the City or Township indicated preceding the s	ion, the person signing the	De	2011			4,2,	22
as qualit	fied to sign the petition.			(Signature of Circulator)	0 0	1	1	(Date)	
H If the	circulator is not a resident of Michigan, II	ne circulator shall make a cross (X) or check mark (vi	I in the box provided,	MHEANA (Printed Name of Circulator)	V 1509	elSDA	16		
oss or c	heck mark in the box provided, the under	signed circulator asserts that he or she is not a resid purpose of any legal proceeding or hearing that con	lent of Michigan and 02	I MEMORI	n/ Du	SHO			
secuted	by the circulator and agrees that legal pro	cess served on the Secretary of State or a designat	ed agent of the Secretary	(Complete Residence Addres			ute]) – [Do not ent	ter a post office bo	x]
	as the same effect as if personally served	OWINGLY MAKING A FALSE STA	TEMENT IN THE	ANTA GA	30303	3			
BOV	E CERTIFICATE, A PERSO	ON NOT A CIRCULATOR WHO SI	IGNS AS A	(City or Township, State, Zip	Code)				
		HO SIGNS A NAME OTHER THA	AN HIS OR HER ——	(County of Registration, if Re	gistered to Vote, o	f a Circulator w	ho is not a Reside	ent of Michigan)	_
		TY OF A MISDEMEANOR.							

DUAL describes a dual jurisdictional entry, meaning the signer wrote the names of two or more jurisdictions in the space for the city or township where registered. If it is clear that one of the two entries refers to the county—for instance "Detroit, Wayne Co." or "Detroit/Wayne County"—the signature would not be invalidated, but if the signer wrote "Detroit/Wayne"—it represents a dual jurisdictional entry and is invalid. This error invalidated 104 signatures.

The petition also included 402 signatures with miscellaneous errors, including signatures of dubious authenticity submitted by circulators other than those listed in the fraudulent-circulator report. For instance, Dulce Amaya Romero submitted 4 petition sheets which 40 signatures of dubious authenticity.

**CHALLENGE:** Mr. Johnson's signatures were challenged by Carol Bray. Specifically, Ms. Bray alleged that the signatures included all of the following:

- 66 entries by dead persons
- 1 entry from a person who submitted an affidavit indicating that her signature was forged
- 99 entries that were crossed out (note: this is not an error. These signatures are never included in the Bureau's count and therefore do not need to be removed.)
- 98 duplicate signatures
- 334 entries by persons who were also included on petition sheets of other gubernatorial candidates
- 8 entries of signers who are not registered to vote in the city or township indicated
- 47 entries that appear not to include a signature
- 293 entries that include jurisdictional errors
- 230 entries that include date errors
- 293 miscellaneous errors
- 343 <u>sheets</u> submitted by fraudulent-petition circulators (specifically, Stephen Tinnin, Yazmine Vassar, Deshawn Evans, Nicholas Carlton, Diallo Vaughn, and William Williams)

In sum, Ms. Bray challenged 6,065 signatures. However, as stated above, the challenge was not processed, because the circulators named above are the same ones the staff had already identified as fraudulent-petition circulators in its own review. Mr. Johnson did not meet the threshold for certification to the ballot based on the staff's initial review.

Mr. Johnson's response to the challenge argued that Ms. Bray could not know that signatures on the 343 sheets were fraudulent because she does not have access to the Qualified Voter File to verify signatures. However, the staff's review of signatures submitted by fraudulent-petition circulators determined these signatures were invalid.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Determine petition insufficient.